

Appl. No. 10/693,112
Amdt. dated July 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (previously presented) An endotracheal tube comprising:

- a) a tubular member including a distal end and a proximal end; and
- b) a plurality of visually distinct regions at a proximal portion of the tubular member, wherein each of the distinct regions comprises a respectively different color, wherein the plurality of visually distinct regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5-7.0 cm from the distal end, a second distinct region spaced about 7.5-8.0 cm from the distal end, and a third distinct region spaced about 8.5-9.0 cm from the distal end.

Claim 2. (original) The endotracheal tube of claim 1 further comprising:

- c) an adapter coupled to the proximal end.

Claim 3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (original) The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of visually distinct regions comprise at least one color selected from the group consisting of blue, red, green, orange, yellow, and brown.

Claim 5. (original) The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the endotracheal tube is adapted for use with an infant or a premature infant.

Claim 6. (original) The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the tubular member has a length less than about 20 centimeters.

PATENT

Appl. No. 10/693,112
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Claim 7. (original) The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually distinct regions comprises a plurality of different colored lines, each line representing a different endotracheal tube insertion depth for patients of different weight.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (previously presented) The endotracheal tube of claim 1 further comprising a fourth distinct region spaced about 9.5-10.0 cm from the distal end.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the first distinct region is spaced about 6.5 cm from the distal end, the second distinct region is spaced about 7.5 cm from the distal end, the third distinct region is spaced about 8.5 cm from the distal end, and a fourth distinct region is spaced about 9.5 cm from the distal end.

Claim 11. (original) The endotracheal tube of claim 1 further comprising a safety marking closer to the distal end than the proximal end, wherein the safety marking is adapted for alignment adjacent to a patient's vocal cords.

Claim 12. (previously presented) A method of inserting an endotracheal tube in a patient, the method comprising:

- a) obtaining an endotracheal tube comprising a tubular member including a distal end and a proximal end, and a plurality of visually distinct regions at a proximal portion of the tubular member, wherein each of the distinct regions comprises a respectively different color;
- b) inserting the distal end of the endotracheal tube into a patient; and
- c) aligning one visually distinct region of the visually distinct regions with an anatomical structure of the patient,

wherein the plurality of visually distinct regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5-7.0 cm from the distal end, a second distinct region spaced about 7.5-8.0 cm from the distal end, and a third distinct region spaced about 8.5-9.0 cm from the distal end.

PATENT

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Claim 13. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

- d) securing the endotracheal tube to the patient after c).

Claim 14. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising

- d) securing the endotracheal tube to the ~~patent~~ patient using tape after c).

Claim 15. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

- d) selecting one visually distinct region prior to b).

Claim 16. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

- d) determining a weight for the patient; and
- e) using the determined weight for the patient to select the one visually distinct

region,

wherein d) and e) are performed before b).

Claim 17. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is an infant.

Claim 18. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is a premature infant.

Claim 19. (canceled)

Claim 20. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein each of the plurality of visually distinct regions comprise at least one color selected from the group consisting of blue, red, green, orange, yellow, and brown.

Claim 21. (canceled)

PATENT

Appl. No. 10/693,112
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Claim 22. (original) The method of claim 12 further comprising a safety marking closer to the distal end than the proximal end, wherein the safety marking is adapted for alignment with the patient's vocal cords.

Claims 23.-24. (canceled)

PATENT

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2, and 3. These sheets, which include Figs. 1, 2, and 3 replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes